

Appl. No. 09/666,951

Amendment dated May 25, 2005

Response to Office action April 25, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended). A method of producing a hollow section with internal reinforcement, which comprises:

coating a ~~hollow~~ core material formed of a hollow section with activatable foamable material;

enclosing the ~~hollow~~ core material and the activatable foamable material with an outer plate to form an assembly with a defined cavity inside the outer plate;

passing the assembly to a corrosion treatment bath and subjecting substantially all interior areas of the assembly to a corrosion protection agent; and

subsequently passing the assembly to a drying oven for heating the assembly to dry the corrosion protection agent and, in the same processing step, to initiate foaming of the activatable foamable material for at least partly filling the defined cavity between the outer plate and the ~~hollow~~ core material.

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Claim 2 (previously presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein the cavity is defined between the outer plate and the activatable foamable material.

Claim 3 (previously presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein the cavity is completely filled by foaming the activatable foamable material

Claim 4 (previously presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein the core material is formed of a foamed metallic material.

Claim 5 (previously presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein the core material is formed of an unfoamed metallic material.

Claim 6 (previously presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein the core material is formed of a synthetic material reinforced with fibers selected from the group consisting of metal fibers, carbon fibers, and glass fibers.

Claim 7 - canceled.

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Claim 8. (previously presented). The method according to claim 1, which comprises maintaining a temperature for coating the core material lower than a stoving temperature for an anticorrosion layer in the drying oven.

Claim 9 (previously presented). The method according to claim 1, which comprises forming the cavity between the activatable foamable material and the outer plate with spacers formed on the activatable foamable material.

Claim 10 (previously presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein the coating step comprises coating the core material with the activatable foamable material only in some areas.

Claim 11 (original). The method according to claim 1, which comprises selecting the core material and the outer material from the group of materials consisting of reinforcing foam, energy-absorbing foam system, and an acoustic foam.

Claim 12 (original). The method according to claim 11, which comprises forming the core material from an energy-absorbing material and selecting an outer material used for coating from

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the group of materials consisting of a reinforcing material and an acoustic foam.

Claim 13 (original). The method according to claim 11, which comprises forming the core material from a reinforcing material and selecting an outer material used for coating from the group consisting of an energy-absorbing material and an acoustic foam.

Claim 14 (original). The method according to claim 11, which comprises forming the core material from an acoustic foam and selecting an outer material used for coating from the group consisting of a reinforcing material and an energy-absorbing material.

Claim 15 (currently amended). A hollow section, comprising:

a substantially hollow core formed of a hollow section having a cavity formed therein and being formed of a material selected from the group consisting of foamed metallic material, unfoamed metallic material, synthetic material reinforced with fibers selected from the group consisting of metal fibers, carbon fibers, and glass fibers;

an activatable foamable material disposed on said hollow core;

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an outer plate enclosing said ~~hollow~~ core and said activatable foamable material to form an assembly with a defined cavity inside said outer plate , and with said ~~hollow~~ core disposed inside said outer plate substantially centrally; and

a corrosion protection agent applied to substantially all interior areas of said assembly before heating said assembly, and said activatable foamable material, after heat-activation thereof, at least partly filling said defined cavity.

Claim 16 (original). The hollow section according to claim 15, wherein said cavity is completely filled by said foamed material.

Claim 17 (currently amended). The hollow section according to claim 15, wherein said ~~hollow~~ core is coated with said foamed material only in some areas.

Claim 18 (currently amended). The hollow section according to claim 15, wherein said ~~hollow~~ core and said material coating said ~~hollow~~ core are formed of a material selected from the group consisting of reinforcing foam, an energy-absorbing foam system, and acoustic foam.

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Claim 19 (currently amended). A method of producing a hollow section with internal reinforcement, which comprises:

coating a ~~a~~ flexurally rigid core with activatable foamable material;

enclosing the core and the activatable foamable material with an outer plate to form an assembly with a defined cavity inside said outer plate and with the core disposed substantially centrally inside the assembly;

passing the assembly to a corrosion treatment bath and subjecting substantially all interior areas of the assembly to a corrosion protection agent; and

subsequently passing the assembly to a drying oven for heating and, thereby, initiating foaming of the activatable foamable material to at least partly fill the defined cavity.

Claim 20 (previously presented). The method according to claim 19, wherein the core is a flexurally rigid hollow section.